



Student & Family Handbook

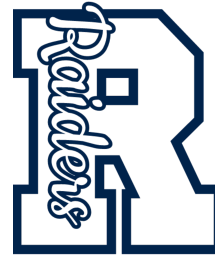
Maple Run Unified School District

2026 - 2027



[Early Education Programs Website](#)

[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[Saint Albans City School Website](#)

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[Saint Albans Town Education Center Website](#)

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[Fairfield Center School Website](#)

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[Bellows Free Academy Saint Albans Website](#)

[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[Northwest Career & Technical Center Website](#)

[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[Maple Run District Office Website](#)



[Collins Perley Sports Complex Website](#)

Finding Information in This Maple Run Handbook

This handbook brings together information that can help students and families navigate the school year at Maple Run. We know there is a lot here, so we've included a few simple ways to find what you need.

Start with the Table of Contents. The Table of Contents provides an overview of the handbook and its sections. When viewing the handbook online, you may be able to select a section title to go directly to that part of the handbook.

Use the Search feature. If you are looking for something specific, you can search the handbook for a word or phrase. Press **Ctrl + F** on a Windows computer or **Command + F** on a Mac.

If you can't find what you're looking for, **please ask.** Your student's school is always a good place to start, and our staff is happy to help connect you with the information or person you need.

If you would prefer a printed copy of the handbook, please contact your student's school, and we will be happy to help.

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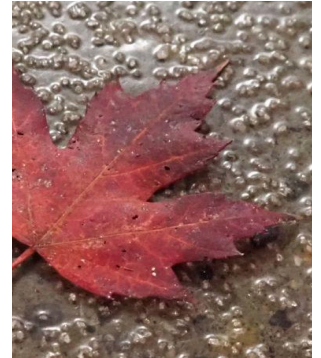
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Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Mission

Maple Run ensures a meaningful, flexible, rigorous, and safe education for all to thrive and excel.



Vision

At Maple Run Unified School District, we are committed to cultivating a welcoming environment where our students and community can tap into their love of learning.

Core Values

In partnership with our families and community, we value:

<i>Children - First and Foremost</i>	<i>Safety and Security</i>
<i>Collaboration and Relationships</i>	<i>Joy and Curiosity</i>
<i>Relevance and Rigor</i>	<i>Independence and Perseverance</i>
<i>Flexibility and Adaptability</i>	<i>Respect and Diversity</i>
<i>Accountability and Integrity</i>	<i>A Commitment to Provide Equity in Access to a Quality Education</i>

Who Are We?

Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD) is the education district for Fairfield Center School, Saint Albans City School, and Saint Albans Educational Center, as well as Bellows Free Academy and the Northwest Career & Technical Center. These were formerly four separate school districts, and the communities of Fairfield, Saint Albans City, and Saint Albans Town voted to unify in March of 2016.



Central Office Administration

Bill Kimball	Superintendent	bkimball@maplerun.org
Megan Grube	Assistant Superintendent	megan.grube@maplerun.org
Brianne King	Business Manager	bking@maplerun.org
Rebecca Greenough	Human Resources Director	rgreenough@maplerun.org
Martin Kattam	Director of Technology & Innovation	mkattam@maplerun.org
Stephanie Ripley	Co-Director of Student Services and Special Education	sripley@maplerun.org
Alexis Hoyt	Co-Director of Student Services and Special Education	ahoyt@maplerun.org

MRUSD District Calendar

2026-2027

MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR

2026-2027

Bellows Free Academy - Northwest Career & Technical Center - Fairfield Center School - St. Albans City School - St. Albans Town Educational Center

July 2026					August 2026					September 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31	31					28	29	30		
10/22 Staff Inservice					8/20-8/25 Staff Inservice					9/4 No School				
10/23 No School					8/26 First day for K-9					9/7 Labor Day				
					8/27 First day for 10-12					9/11 Rosh Hashanah - No Evening Events				
					8/31 First day for preK					9/21 Yom Kippur - No School or Evening Events				
October 2026					November 2026					December 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	30					28	29	30	31	
10/22 Staff Inservice					11/10 Diwali - No Evening Events					12/24-1/1 Winter Break				
10/23 No School					11/23 Inservice									
					11/24-11/27 Thanksgiving Break									
January 2027					February 2027					March 2027				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29						29	30	31		
1/1 Winter Break					2/22-3/2 Second Winter Break					3/1-3/2 Second Winter Break				
1/18 Martin Luther King Day										3/10 Eid al-Fitr - No Evening Events				
1/19 Staff Inservice										3/26 Inservice				
April 2027					May 2027					June 2027				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31					28	29	30		
4/19-4/23 Spring Break					5/31 Memorial Day					6/15 Planned Last Student Day				
										6/16 Planned Staff Inservice				

Non-Student Days		Other Days	
	Holiday/Vacation		First & Last Day for Students
	Staff Inservice		No Evening Events
Make-Up Days Due to School Closures May Be Added After the Last Student Day			

MRUSD School Board of Directors

Name	Representation	Contact
Nilda Gonnella-French, Chair	Saint Albans City	ngonnellaafrench@maplerun.org
Charles Brooks, Vice Chair	Saint Albans City	cbrooks@maplerun.org
Karlie Gunderson	Saint Albans City	kgunderson@maplerun.org
Suzanne Kenyon	Saint Albans City	skenyon@maplerun.org
Joanna Jerosse, Clerk	Fairfield	jjerosse@maplerun.org
Marianne Dubie	Fairfield	mdubie@maplerun.org
Jessica Frost	Saint Albans Town	jfrost@maplerun.org
Jack McCarthy	Saint Albans Town	jmccarthy@maplerun.org
J. Nakuma Palczewski	Saint Albans Town	inpalczewski@maplerun.org
Jennifer Williamson	Saint Albans Town	jennifer.williamson@maplerun.org

Additional School Board Information

2026-2027 School Board Meeting Schedule

The Board of Directors believes that the quality of the educational program is enhanced when the district considers differences of opinion, listens to complaints, and actively resolves disagreements through an established, objective process. When appropriate, Maple Run uses Restorative Practices so all affected people can learn from individual differences. Using these protocols to both heal and grow relationships within Maple Run will make a stronger and safer community.

For more information, please visit the [MRUSD School Board of Directors Website](#).

Maple Run Unified School District #57		
Board Meeting Agendas	Bellevue Free Academy UHSD #48 (BFA)	71 South Main Street, Saint Albans
	Central Office (CO)	28 Catherine Street, Saint Albans
Regular meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month	Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center (CPSC)	890 Fairfax Road, Saint Albans
	Fairfield Center School (FCS)	57 Park Street, Fairfield
	Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)	71 South Main Street, Saint Albans
	Saint Albans City School (SACS)	29 Bellows Street, Saint Albans
	Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC)	169 South Main Street, Saint Albans
Date	Location	Changes (if any)
August 19, 2026	Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center (CPSC)	
September 2, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
September 16, 2026	Fairfield Center School (FCS)	
October 7, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
October 21, 2026	Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)	
November 4, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
November 18, 2026	Saint Albans City School (SACS)	
December 2, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
December 16, 2026	Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC)	
January 6, 2027	Central Office (CO)	
January 20, 2027	Bellevue Free Academy (BFA)	
February 3, 2027	Central Office (CO)	
February 17, 2027	Fairfield Center School (FCS)	
March 3, 2027	Central Office (CO)	
March 17, 2027	Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)	
April 7, 2027	Central Office (CO)	
April 21, 2027	Saint Albans City School (SACS)	
May 5, 2027	Central Office (CO)	
May 19, 2027	Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC)	
June 2, 2027	Central Office (CO)	
June 16, 2027	Bellevue Free Academy (BFA)	

Required Notices

Agency of Education (AOE) Notices

Mandated Reporting

As educators and mandated reporters, it is our duty to help protect students from abuse and neglect. Any mandated reporter who reasonably suspects abuse or neglect of a child shall report to the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) within 24 hours of the time information regarding the suspected abuse or neglect was first received or observed. Mandated reporters are not required to notify parents/guardians when a report is made.

Prohibition Against Suspension/Expulsion of Students Younger Than Eight

Act 35 of 2021 prohibits suspension and expulsion of students under eight years old, except in cases of imminent harm or danger to others. For more information, please read the recently issued [memo](#) by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE).

Title 1

Title I is the largest federally funded program for public schools in the United States that provides additional support to help students who are at risk of not meeting academic standards. Schools may offer either a schoolwide program for all students or targeted assistance for eligible students, providing support beyond regular classroom instruction. All MRUSD schools qualify to run schoolwide programs. In addition, under Title 1, participating school districts must provide supplemental educational services for eligible private school students.

Purpose of Title 1 Funding

Title I aims to ensure all children have a fair and equal opportunity to receive a high-quality education and meet state academic standards.

What Services Does Title I Provide?

Small group instruction in or outside the classroom
Additional time and support for skill development
Differentiated teaching strategies
Supplemental materials and instruction
Individualized learning goal
Professional learning opportunities for staff

Title I Parental Rights

Teacher Qualifications

- You have the right to request information about your student's teachers, including:
 - Whether they are state-certified for the subjects and grades they teach
 - If they are teaching under emergency or provisional status
 - Their degrees and areas of study
 - Qualifications of paraprofessionals working with your student

Assessments

Parents may request information about policies regarding state or local assessments. For more information, visit the Curriculum page on the MRUSD website or contact your school principal.

School Nutrition Program

Vermont's Child Nutrition Program ensures that all students have access to healthy, nutritious meals at school, often at no cost to families. Many schools across the state offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of household income, through state and federally supported programs. These meals follow USDA nutrition guidelines and support student health, learning, and well-being. Families are encouraged to complete meal benefit forms, as eligibility may also provide access to other supports and help schools receive vital funding. Additional programs offer meals during summer and after-school hours to ensure children are nourished year-round.

For more information, please visit the [Vermont Agency of Education website](#).

Parent/Guardian Annual Notices

All district-wide annual notifications for the 2026–2027 school year are located here with the [MRUSD FY27 Annual Notices](#); click the link to review information on:

- Student Records & FERPA;
- Directory Information Rights;
- Section 504 & Child Find;
- Non-Discrimination & New Americans;
- Asbestos Management Plan Availability;
- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA);
- Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students;
 - Seclusion & Restraint Notifications

Please note that Rule 4500 remains separate from this document.

Please click this [Rule 4500 Link](#) to access it directly.

MRUSD Policies and Procedures

Effective student policies within school districts are crucial for creating a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment. These policies encompass a wide range of areas, including but not limited to Safety and Security; Equity and Inclusion; Academic Standards; Behavioral Expectations; Health and Wellness; Parent and Community Engagement; and Technology Use.

In essence, well-crafted student policies reflect the values and priorities of the school district, aiming to provide every student with the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed in a supportive and inclusive educational environment.

For a full list of all the policies and procedures, please visit the [MRUSD website](#).

<u>Bus Rules and Discipline</u> (Procedure)
<u>Civil Rights Complaints</u> (Procedure)
<u>Displaced Students</u> (Procedure)
<u>Drug and Alcohol Abuse</u> (Procedure)
<u>English Language Learners</u> (Policy)
<u>Field Trips</u> (Procedure)
<u>Firearms</u> (Policy)
<u>Firearms</u> (Procedure)
<u>Fundraising</u> (Policy)
<u>Hazing, Harassment, Bullying or HHB</u> (Policy)
<u>Hazing, Harassment, Bullying or HHB</u> (Procedure)
<u>K-8 In-District Transfer</u> (Procedure)
<u>Protection of Pupil Rights</u> (Policy)
<u>Responsible Computer, Network and Internet Use</u> (Policy)

<u>Restrictive Behavior Intervention- Rule4500</u> (Procedure)
<u>Search and Seizure by School Personnel</u> (Policy)
<u>Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement or Other Non-School Personnel</u> (Procedure)
<u>Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Alcohol, Marijuana and Drugs</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Attendance</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Cell Phone Use</u> (Procedure)
<u>Student Conduct and Discipline</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Conduct and Discipline</u> (Procedure)
<u>Surveillance Policy</u> (Procedure)
<u>Title I</u> (Policy)
<u>Title I</u> (Procedure)
<u>Title IX Sexual Harassment</u> (Policy)
<u>Transportation</u> (Policy)
<u>Vermont Special Education Procedures and Practices Manual</u> (Policy)
<u>Visitors</u> (Policy)
<u>Visitors</u> (Procedure)
<u>Weapons</u> (Policy)
<u>Wellness</u> (Policy)

School Safety and Emergency Preparedness

At Maple Run, the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors are our top priorities. Our school safety teams work in close partnership with local first responders and meet regularly throughout the year to ensure a swift, coordinated, and effective response to any emergency. To ensure our community is prepared, our schools regularly conduct mandatory safety drills in compliance with state and national safety standards.

Required School Safety Drills

- **Egress and Relocation Drills**

In accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code, schools conduct a minimum of six evacuation drills each school year. Individual schools may schedule additional practice drills at their discretion.

- **Options-Based Response Drills**

In accordance with Vermont State law (Act 29, Title 16 V.S.A. § 1481), schools conduct two age-appropriate, trauma-informed drills each year (one per semester) to prepare for violent intruder scenarios.

- **School Bus Evacuation Drills**

Vermont State law (Title 23 V.S.A. § 1285) requires two bus evacuation drills per year (one per semester) for all students who are transported by school bus.

Emergency Protocols & Response Methodology

- **Run, Hide, Fight**

Maple Run uses the *Run, Hide, Fight* framework for responding to violent intruder situations, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Vermont School Safety Center. These strategies are taught in an age-appropriate and trauma-informed way and are designed to support staff and student safety during critical incidents.

- **Offsite Reunification**

In the event of an emergency requiring evacuation from campus, an offsite reunification process may be implemented. Families are encouraged to view this informational video to understand how the process works: <https://youtu.be/IFzkfdQ86yc>

More Information & Resources

For additional details on district safety protocols, please visit the [District Safety Page](#). Additional resources, including state guidance and training materials, are available through the [Vermont School Safety Center website](#).

Attendance Matters

“Be here. Be engaged. Be inspired.”

Regular school attendance is essential for your student’s academic success and overall well-being.

We expect all students to attend school every day, on time, and ready to learn.

MRUSD is required by Vermont law to record, code, and report all student absences regardless of reason (including both excused and unexcused absences).

If you need to report an absence, please contact your student’s school with their full name, grade, date of absence, and reason.

<u>Attendance Contact Information</u>		
School	Attendance Line	Attendance Email
FCS	802-827-6639 *Press 1*	fcsoffice@maplerun.org
SATEC	802-527-7191 *Press 1*	satec-attendance@maplerun.org
SACS	802-527-0565 *Press 4*	sacsattendance@maplerun.org
BFA	802-527-6555 *Press 1*	bfaattendance@maplerun.org
NCTC (Non-MRUSD students only)	802-527-0614 *Press 0*	nctcadminasst@maplerun.org

Thank you for partnering with us to support your student’s learning!

Health Information

General Health Practices for Illness

MRUSD will adhere to the following guidelines for both staff and students:

Please be sure that your parent/guardian contact information is current and on file with the school in case of an emergency or an ill student.

The Yearly Health Update form must be completed **every school year**; this is located in your student's PowerSchool account.

If you need assistance accessing PowerSchool, please contact your school.

Fever of 100.4 Degrees or Higher

Students can return to school once they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhea

Students can return to school once free of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.

Uncontrolled Coughing, Shortness of Breath, and/or Difficulty Breathing

Individuals experiencing these symptoms *should* not attend school.

With any concerns regarding any of the above symptoms, please contact your student's primary health care provider.

*Students experiencing cold-like symptoms who feel well enough to participate in their day should not be excluded, **unless they have any of the above symptoms.***

Medication

Please contact your school nurse/health office to discuss any medication questions or concerns.

Prescription medications require a physician's medication order before they can be provided to your student.

All medication to be given at school needs to be brought to the health office **by an adult** in the **original, labeled container** for the designated student from the pharmacy or manufacturer.

Parents/guardians may provide **an over-the-counter medication permission form** on the Yearly Health Update found in PowerSchool.

Head Lice

If a student is identified with live head lice, parents/guardians will be notified. The student may remain in school for the rest of the day. Parents are expected to begin proper treatment that evening and may request a follow-up head check by the school nurse.

***Presence of nits alone is not a barrier to continued attendance,
as head lice do not pose a public health risk and are not grounds for immediate exclusion.***

<u>School Nurse Contact Information</u>		
School	Nursing Line	Nursing Email
FCS	802-827-6639 *Press 1*	hkane@maplerun.org
SACS	802-527-0565 *Press 3*	sacsurses@maplerun.org
SATEC	802-527-7191 *Press 3*	satec_health@maplerun.org
BFA/NCTC	802-527-6555 *Press 2*	bfanurses@maplerun.org

Rigorous Academics, Behavior Expectations, and Supportive Measures

Curriculum

Maple Run Unified School District strives to provide a curriculum that allows students and teachers to meet or exceed the Vermont School Quality Standards. Some of the ways we do this are:

Design, implement, and evaluate PK-12 curricula, instructional, and assessment programs

Coordinate professional learning experiences for professional staff

Development, coordination, and management of state and federal grant programs

Coordinate and report out on Supervisory Union assessment and accountability results

Coordinate services for English Language Learners

Coordinate services and supports for homeless students

For more information, please visit the [curriculum page](#) on the MRUSD website.

Services for English Learners (EL)

The Maple Run Unified School District provides services for students who are English Learners (EL) in grades PK-12. Through the years, EL has been called ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and EL (English Learners). Students whose home language is other than English are provided with opportunities to develop skills in four areas of communication: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Through the EL program, students work toward achieving proficiency in these areas of communication as well as supporting their achievement in the core academic areas.

For more information, please visit our website [here](#) or contact your student's school.

High Reliability Schools (HRS) Framework

Maple Run Unified School District utilizes the research-based **High Reliability Schools (HRS)** framework as our strategic roadmap for continuous improvement and operational integrity.

This model organizes our district initiatives into five progressive levels to ensure every school operates with high standards and consistent outcomes:

Level 1: Safe, Supportive, & Collaborative Culture → **Level 2:** Effective Teaching in Every Classroom
→ **Level 3:** Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum → **Level 4:** Standards-Referenced Reporting
→ **Level 5:** Competency-Based Education

By systematically monitoring key indicators at each level, MRUSD ensures aligned instructional practices, measurable academic growth, and long-term organizational efficiency district-wide.

For a detailed overview of the framework and research behind each level, visit the official

[Marzano Resources High Reliability Schools Overview](#).

Our Commitment to Professional Learning

Our district is deeply committed to continuous improvement and professional growth for all staff. To support this commitment, we have designated one early release day each week, Wednesday, for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth and protected early morning time at our high school, BFA: Saint Albans. By investing in regular professional development, we ensure that our educators are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of all students, along with staying current with the latest research and best practices in education.

Report Cards

Grades PK-8

All report cards for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade are now aligned across the district in all content areas.

Report cards will be distributed to PK-8 families in November, March, and June each year.

BFA Grades 9-12

BFA operates on a semester system. Progress reports will be sent out in the fall and spring, before parent-teacher conferences. Report cards will be distributed in January and June. These will include progress updates for year-long courses and final grades for semester-long courses.

Northwest Career and Technical Center (NCTC) Grades 9-12

NCTC produces its own report cards based on BFA's reporting schedule.

Please review the NCTC handbook section for more details and information.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is our comprehensive student information system that helps bridge the gap between home and school. Through PowerSchool, parents and students can access real-time information on grades, attendance, and schedules. This platform empowers families to stay informed and engaged in the educational journey. You can access PowerSchool anytime by visiting [PowerSchool's login](#)

[page](#) or its mobile application. Should you encounter any errors or need assistance, please contact your student’s school directly.

Restorative Practices

MRUSD is committed to building and fostering restorative school and district communities. Restorative practices in schools represent a shift from traditional disciplinary approaches towards fostering a supportive and inclusive school culture. Key aspects of restorative practices in the educational context include building relationships, conflict resolution, accountability and responsibility, community building, social-emotional learning, prevention, and educational equity. Overall, restorative practices in schools promote a holistic approach to discipline. They support a positive school climate where all members of the school community feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute to a safe and inclusive learning environment. Please see the following table for a comparison of traditional discipline and restorative practices. Also, for more information on restorative practices, please visit the [International Institute for Restorative Practices](http://www.internationalinstituteforrestorativepractices.org/) website.

Paradigm Shift

Traditional Discipline	Restorative Practices
<i>School and rules violated</i>	<i>People and relationships violated</i>
<i>Justice focuses on establishing guilt</i>	<i>Justice identifies needs and obligations</i>
<i>Accountability = punishment</i>	<i>Accountability = understanding impact, repairing harm</i>
<i>Justice directed at offender, while victim is ignored</i>	<i>Offender, victim and school all have direct roles in justice process</i>
<i>Rules and intent outweigh whether outcome is positive/negative</i>	<i>Offender is responsible for harmful behavior, repairing harm and working toward positive outcome</i>
<i>No opportunity for remorse or amends</i>	<i>Opportunity given for amends and expression of remorse</i>

Note: Fix School Discipline. (n.d.). *Restorative practices toolkit for educators*. <http://www.fixschooldiscipline.org/toolkit/educators/restorative>

Dress Expectations

Students are expected to dress appropriately while at school. It is expected that each student’s clothing and appearance meet generally accepted standards of taste and common sense. In specific instances, a building administrator will determine the suitability of a student’s attire.

Styles of clothing that are disruptive to the educational process or pose a threat to the safety and health of self or others will not be permitted in school.

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) provides schools with best practices for school dress, which is equitable to all students, limiting restrictions to those necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school. The basic principle is that there are certain body parts that must be covered for **all** students. A school dress expectation should not create an unnecessary barrier to school attendance, should never embarrass or shame a student, particularly in front of others, and should not be disproportionate due to race, gender, body size, or body maturity.

The expectations listed are consistent with supporting our educational goals.

Students are Required to Wear:

- Top: A shirt or upper garment (with fabric covering the chest, back, & sides under the arms).
- Bottom: Pants, shorts, skirt, dress, or leggings.
- Footwear: Shoes appropriate for a school environment (activity-specific footwear may be required for PE, science labs, or extracurriculars).
 - Students should consider safety and mobility when selecting footwear due to stairs, outdoor recess, and transitions.
- Please know that there are programs and/or locations in the district that may have additional clothing requirements for students to follow in order to participate in certain programs or activities.
 - These requirements will be communicated by the supervising staff.
 - Example(s): Northwest Career and Technical Center (NCTC) Programs and Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center.

Students May Wear:

- Hats, scarves, head and/or religious head coverings, or hooded sweatshirts, as long as the face and ears are visible for safety and communication.
- Please note that to ensure safety, visibility, and identification when necessary, staff may request the temporary removal of headwear, while being mindful and respectful of cultural, religious, or medical considerations.

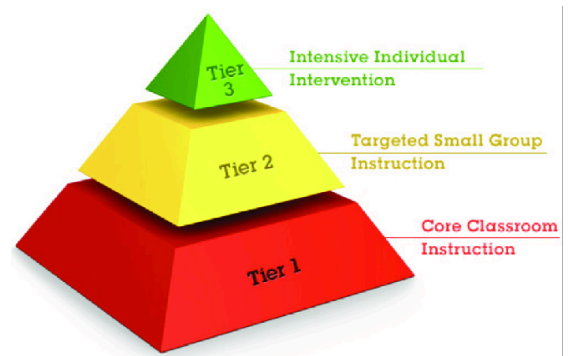
Students May Not Wear:

- Clothing, accessories, or grooming that depicts, promotes, or advertises:
 - Violence or weapons
 - Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal activity
 - Hate speech, racism, sexism, or gang affiliation
 - Pornographic or profane content

- Clothing, accessories, or grooming that:
 - Exposes private parts (i.e., genitals, buttocks, or nipples).
 - Creates a hostile, intimidating, or disruptive environment, as determined by the administration based on context and intent.
 - Presents a safety concern as determined by the administration based on context and intent.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is used to provide targeted support to all students based on their individual needs. It involves multiple tiers of interventions, with increasing levels of support at each layer. It starts with high-quality classroom instruction and universal screening for all students. Those who need additional help receive more targeted interventions in small groups (Tier 2), and students requiring intensive support receive individualized interventions (Tier 3). Continuous monitoring of student progress ensures that interventions are effective and adjusted as needed. MTSS aims to address academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs, ensuring that every student can succeed. For more information, visit the [Vermont Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#) from the Agency of Education website.



Note: Stockley, Naomi & Tatana, Rianna & Kaur, Roshni & Reynolds, Alice. (2022). The Pavilion School, Melbourne, Australia. 10.14705/rpnet.2022.55.1366.

Aligned Behavior Definitions

Aligning behavior definitions in schools is critically important for creating a consistent, restorative, and supportive learning environment. Alignment within our behavior systems supports consistency across staff and classrooms, improved student understanding, equity, data accuracy for decision-making, enhanced communication with families, and professional collaboration and calibration. For a detailed breakdown of this information, please refer to this [document](#).

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the development of competencies or skills that support healthy development, mental health, and wellness; these skills also underlie students' academic success. MRUSD strives to create safe and supportive learning environments by utilizing evidence-based social-emotional learning competencies and restorative interventions to foster

optimal student growth. For more information, please see the [MRUSD Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Competency Guide](#) and/or the [Universal Screening for Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs and Strengths in Vermont Schools](#) document from the Vermont Agency of Education.

Annual SEL Student Surveys:

Throughout each school year, MRUSD administers a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Student Survey to help us better understand students' experiences, school climate, and social-emotional needs. The information gathered is used to inform school improvement efforts, enhance student supports, and guide district planning. Please note that this survey is **not anonymous**.

Student responses are linked to individual students so that school staff can better understand trends, identify areas where additional support may be needed, and provide appropriate interventions when necessary.

Panorama Education Data Platform

All schools within MRUSD now utilize Panorama Education as their data platform. It is designed to help schools and districts collect, analyze, and act on feedback from students, educators, and families. All students' attendance, academic, behavior, and social-emotional progress are recorded and measured within Panorama. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the [Panorama](#) website.

Internet and Technology

Responsible Technology Use

MRUSD recognizes the essential role of information technology in preparing students for success in a global society. The district supports responsible access to electronic resources for both students and staff.

District and school guidelines aim to:

1. Promote technology use that enriches learning and encourages collaboration.
2. Ensure safety when using district devices, networks, and web resources.
3. Comply with all applicable federal and state laws governing internet access in schools.

Students are granted the privilege of internet and network access to enhance learning. While these tools offer vast benefits, they also carry risks. To reduce misuse and promote accountability, students and families must review and follow the MRUSD Computer Use Agreement and related policies.

Students who bring personal electronic devices (e.g., phones, tablets, laptops) must secure them when not in use. MRUSD is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use & Academic Integrity Expectations

Purpose

This section establishes expectations for the ethical, transparent, and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools within Maple Run Unified School District. Grounded in [guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education](#), MRUSD strives to cultivate AI literacy, critical thinking, and academic integrity while ensuring technology enhances - rather than replaces - authentic student learning and human relationships.

Primary District AI Platform

- District Standard: Google Gemini (accessed via official student/staff district accounts) is MRUSD's primary AI platform.
- Data & Privacy Guardrails: When accessed through school accounts, Gemini is aligned with district privacy and safety standards and is not used to improve AI models. Unapproved third-party AI platforms, external chatbots, or unverified browser extensions may be blocked on district networks and devices to protect student privacy and data security.

Developmental Expectations & Usage Framework

Aligned with state guidelines, student access to AI varies based on grade level and developmental appropriateness:

- Grades PK–2: Students do not use AI tools directly. Educators may use district-approved AI-powered tools behind the scenes to assist with instructional materials or screening.
- Grades 3–5 (AI Awareness): Open-ended AI chatbots are not permitted for student use. AI may only be used when embedded into specific, curriculum-constrained educational software under direct teacher guidance.
- Grades 6–8 (AI Literacy): Students may engage with structured, age-appropriate AI tools for defined educational tasks under teacher direction to build foundational AI literacy and critical evaluation skills.
- Grades 9–12+ (AI Fluency): High school students may leverage district-approved AI as a cognitive assistant, research partner, or drafting tool, provided teacher permission is granted and usage is fully disclosed.

Prohibited Use & Academic Integrity

- Teacher Permission Required: AI tools may not be used for completing assignments, generating ideas, editing, or submitting work unless explicitly permitted by the classroom teacher.
- Plagiarism & Misrepresentation: Submitting AI-generated content—text, code, or media—as your own original work without teacher authorization and proper disclosure/citation is considered plagiarism and may result in a violation under your school’s student procedures, located in the specific handbook.
- Cognitive Struggle: AI must not be used to bypass the essential practice, critical thinking, or productive struggle required to master academic standards.

Student Privacy & Data Protection

All AI interactions must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and applicable Vermont student data privacy laws. Students and staff are strictly prohibited from entering any personally identifiable information (PII) or sensitive data into any AI platform, including:

- Full names, student ID numbers, or birthdates
- Home addresses, phone numbers, or personal contact info
- Medical, mental health, or special education/disciplinary details
- Names or identifying descriptions of other students, family members, or staff
- Uncredited intellectual property or confidential personal writings

Teacher Role, Pedagogy & Assessment Practices

To uphold academic integrity and focus on student growth:

- Teachers may design AI-informed assessments (where AI is used as a thought partner) or AI-free assessments (where AI is strictly prohibited).
- Grading and evaluation will emphasize the learning process (e.g., in-class drafting, live writing conferences, student reflections, oral presentations, and process logs) over the final standalone product.
- AI will never replace student mastery of foundational reading, writing, and analytical standards.

Evaluation of Student Work & AI Detection

MRUSD recognizes that automated AI detection software is not 100% reliable and will not be used as the sole determining factor for academic dishonesty. If a concern arises regarding the authenticity of student work, educators will:

- Evaluate the work within the full context of the student's prior writing samples, classroom performance, and demonstrated skills.
- Engage in a direct, supportive conversation or interview with the student regarding their process and understanding of the topic.
- Provide the student an opportunity to explain their work, demonstrate their learning, or revise/redo the assignment under teacher supervision.

Academic Integrity Consequences

Unauthorized or inappropriate use of AI may lead to:

- Notification to parents/guardians
- Redoing the assignment or alternative assessment under direct supervision
- Grade reduction, loss of credit on the assignment, or required academic intervention
- Additional disciplinary or restorative consequences per your student's school handbook

Final Note & Continuous Dialogue

AI technology, district tools, and educational practices will continue to evolve rapidly. Because expectations may vary depending on the grade level, subject, and specific assignment, students and families are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarity on AI use in each classroom and school setting. We view this as an ongoing learning journey and encourage open communication as we navigate these emerging tools together.

Google Workspace for Education Parental Consent

Maple Run Unified School District provides students with Google Workspace for Education accounts to support learning. These accounts include tools such as Gmail, Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Calendar, and Classroom. Students use them to complete assignments, collaborate with classmates, and communicate with teachers.

Understanding Your Student's Account

We want parents to know that a student's school email address operates essentially like a standard, fully functional Google account. Students can communicate externally via email and use their account to register for online learning tools and third-party platforms.

Because these accounts are provided for educational purposes within our district domain, the district maintains administrative oversight and management of all account activity. District administrators have full access to view account usage, monitor incoming and outgoing communications, retrieve deleted files or messages, and apply individual account restrictions as necessary to ensure safety. We encourage parents to partner with us by discussing safe internet practices, appropriate messaging, and digital citizenship at home.

Privacy & Safety

To create and manage these accounts, Google collects limited information:

- Student's name, school-issued email address, and password
- Assignment and communication activity
- Device/browser type and IP address

Google does not use student personal information for advertising in core educational services. Additionally, while some optional Google services may display ads, students using a Google Workspace for Education account in primary and secondary schools (K-12) will not be shown personalized ads. This means Google does not use account information or past activity to target ads to K-12 students.

For more details, see Google's Education Privacy Notice:

https://workspace.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html

Consent and Account Management

By allowing your student to use these services, you consent to the collection and use of their information as described. If you have any questions, wish to manage your student's account, or need more information, please contact your school administrator.

Community, Family Engagement, and Communication

At Maple Run Unified School District, we believe strong partnerships with families, caregivers, and community members are an important part of creating a welcoming environment where students can thrive and tap into their love of learning. We are committed to open, two-way communication and to building trusting relationships that support student learning, success, and well-being.

Maple Run Supports Meaningful Engagement By:

Providing clear, consistent, and accessible communication through PowerSchool, Google Classroom, BrightArrow, BrightChat, email, school newsletters, websites, and social media.

Creating opportunities for families to participate in school events, planning, & decision-making through surveys, open houses, family meetings, and other opportunities to connect.

Ensuring communication is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible in formats and languages that families can understand.

Building strong partnerships across our schools and with community organizations to support the learning, well-being, and growth of every student.



Whether you're attending a school event, connecting with teachers, sharing feedback, or taking part in a district conversation, your voice and partnership matter. We value the opportunity to listen, learn, and work together to support our students and community.

For district-level communication questions or feedback, please contact:

Erin Rocheleau

MRUSD Communications Specialist
(802) 370-3937 | erocheleau@maplerun.org

For school-specific communication, please visit their website for more information.

Bellows Free Academy - Saint Albans	Early Education Programs
Fairfield Center School	Northwest Career & Technical Center
Saint Albans City School	Saint Albans Town Education Center

Staying Connected: BrightArrow and BrightChat

Maple Run Unified School District uses BrightArrow to send important information to families and staff by **email, phone, and text message**.

Messages may include emergency notifications, school cancellations or delays, attendance notifications, transportation updates, early dismissals, Superintendent or Principal updates, reminders, and other important school information.

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

BrightArrow uses contact information from [PowerSchool](#), so please make sure your phone numbers and email addresses are current. If your contact information changes during the school year, please update it in PowerSchool or contact your student's school registrar.

Text Message Notifications

Families can choose to receive district and school text messages through BrightArrow.

To opt in to text messages, text YES to 79041.

To opt out of text messages, text STOP to 79041.

BrightChat Two-Way Messaging

BrightChat is BrightArrow's [two-way messaging tool](#), allowing families and students to communicate directly with school staff.

Staff may use BrightChat to send messages about school information, reminders, questions, and updates. Families and students can also reply to messages when two-way communication is available. BrightChat offers translation features to help support communication with families in multiple languages.

Families can access BrightChat through the [BrightArrow ParentHub](#).

Questions?

If you have questions about BrightArrow, BrightChat, ParentHub, or your communication preferences, please contact the **Maple Run IT Help Desk** at mrusdhelpdesk@maplerun.org.

You can also reach out directly to your student's school or teacher with questions about school-specific communication.

Recommendations and Guidance on Inclusive Celebrations

[Memo from Superintendent, Bill Kimball](#)

Effective Communication Expectations

[Memo from Superintendent, Bill Kimball](#)

Partnership with Law Enforcement

[MRUSD District Liaison Memorandum](#)

Links to Specific School Websites & Handbooks

All information that is specific to your student's school is contained in the handbook link below.



[Early Education Programs Website](#)
[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[St. Albans City School Website](#)
[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[St. Albans Town Education Center Website](#)
[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[Fairfield Center School Website](#)
[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[Bellows Free Academy St. Albans Website](#)
[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[Northwest Career & Technical Center Website](#)
[Click Here for Handbook](#)



[MRUSD District Office Website](#)



[Collins Perley Sports Complex Website](#)